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- Per NASA Letter

[REDACTED]  
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4 February 1971

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Science and Technology

SUBJECT: Contracting Support for NASA U-2 Project

REFERENCE: Memorandum for DD/S&T from [REDACTED]  
dated 1 February 1971; Subject: Same  
[REDACTED]

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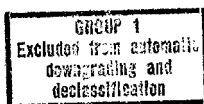
1. This paper is submitted in response to your request to review the referenced recommendation that CIA provide "black contracting support" for the NASA U-2 Earth Resources Surveying Program.

2. We have examined the reasons given by [REDACTED] and recognize that a "white contract" may present additional problems for the Air Force and Lockheed, but these appear to be minor when compared to the crux of the matter which we believe to be the following:

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a. The NASA Earth Resources Surveying Program is completely unclassified. The two U-2's which would be provided NASA on a loan basis will be unclassified. Flight programs as well as data acquired will be unclassified and openly available. The U-2's would be flown by pilots on contract from Lockheed and would be totally under NASA operational control.

b. If the Agency were to provide contract support as requested it would necessarily mean the use of the confidential funds procedures wherein the DCI certifies to Congress that the funds have been expended for confidential purposes. The



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confidential funds procedure is vital to the Agency's mission in that it permits the procurement of classified and sensitive materials without open and public scrutiny. This is a procedure that in our opinion should be preserved and maintained.

c. In recent months the GAO scrutiny of NASA contracting procedures has intensified and it is logical to assume that the publicized Earth Resources Program would be a candidate for audit. If the Agency placed the contracts, GAO would be denied access without justification since the NASA program is completely unclassified.

3. Accordingly, we do not feel that it would be wise to jeopardize this arrangement in an unclassified program for another agency unless there are overwhelming reasons of policy or other considerations which are not apparent. It is recommended that NASA contract directly with Lockheed on an unclassified basis for the services required.

4. The attached memorandum has been prepared for your signature if you concur with our recommendation as noted in paragraph 3.

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Brigadier General, USAF  
Director of Special Activities

Attachment - 1

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